

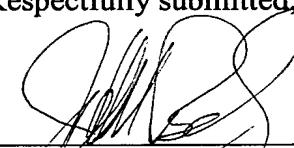
REMARKS

Claims 17-36 are now pending and each of independent claims 17, 27, and 35 are novel and patentable over Kadoya et al., over Pall, over Nakayama et al., and over Nakayama et al. in view of Lippold.

For example, each of the pending independent claims defines a filter or a method of making a filter in which a pleat tip region has a non bulbous, tapered shape. Further, at a point spaced one to four pleat leg thicknesses from the end of the pleat tip region, the thickness of the pleat tip region is less than or equal to twice the pleat leg thickness.

None of the references or the combination of references discloses or suggests filters or methods of making filters having these characteristics. In particular, in Nakayama et al., at a point 7 mm from the ridge 124, the thickness of the wave is 15 mm, which is greater than twice the 7 mm thickness of the side portion. Accordingly, it is respectfully contended that all of the claims are patentable over the references.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: 1 Dec 2004
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